

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please insert the following paragraphs on the second page before line 14
("Cloning of the VB6P phosphatase gene"):

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows the restriction map of chromosomal DNA around *pdxP*.

FIG. 2 shows the construction of pKK-pdxP. The *pdxP* gene was amplified by PCR and cloned in the pCRII-TOPO vector. The resulting plasmid was named TOPO pdxP105 (shown as TOPO pdxP-5 in the figure). A 0.86-kb Sma I fragment containing the *pdxP* gene from TOPO pdxP105 was ligated into Sma I site of pKK223-3 in an orientation that allowed transcription of pdxP from tac promoter, and resulting plasmid was named pKK-pdxP.

FIG. 3 shows the construction of pVK-PtacpdxP. A cosmid vector, pVK100 was digested with Bgl II, then a fragment about 21.3 kb in size was recovered. After the fragments were treated with bacterial alkaline phosphatase, a 1.1-kb BamH I fragment from pKKpdxP was ligated into the Bgl II digested and dephosphorylated 21.3-kb fragment to give a plasmid pVKPtacpdxP (FIG. 3). --

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Please delete FIG. 4 and replace it with FIG. 3 attached hereto as Exhibit

B.